



CITY OF PLAINFIELD



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIRE IN DOWNTOWN BUILDINGS

Plainfield, New Jersey - On Tuesday, February 07, 2023, at 6:39 PM, the Plainfield Fire Department responded to reports of a brush fire at 145 East 2nd Street (Municipal Lot #6). Upon arrival and after assessment, the fire was upgraded to a structure fire. As the blaze escalated, the Plainfield Fire Department was confronted with extreme fire conditions in a covered alleyway that exposed buildings on East Front Street, Watchung Avenue, and East Second Street. All efforts were made to contain the fire, but with complications of hidden combustible voids, forcible entry, and immediate exposure, the fire eventually impacted eight (8) buildings and several businesses.

During the evening and into the night, the fire was upgraded to a Six Alarm fire requiring more than 25 pieces of firefighting machinery and equipment and over 125 emergency personnel. The assignment also required the collaboration of numerous agencies, including Westfield PD for drone surveillance, Union County Rehab, Numerous EMS units, the New Jersey Division of Fire, the Red Cross, and other supporting agencies. In total, 17 municipalities worked together to combat the blaze. Plainfield Fire Department received support from Scotch Plains, Union, Westfield, Springfield, Fanwood, Cranford, Summit, Rahway, Linden, Mountainside, New Providence, Clark, Berkeley Heights, Roselle, North Plainfield, and South Plainfield.

Despite their best efforts, the fire caused significant damage to buildings and surrounding structures in the 100 Block of East Front Street. The cause of the fire is under investigation, and the source has not yet been determined.

The fire displaced approximately thirty (30) residents, and thankfully, no injuries have been reported. The Red Cross has set up a temporary shelter for those displaced by the fire.

“This is a devastating blow to our downtown commercial district and to the City as a whole,” said Mayor Adrian O. Mapp, who was on the scene of the fire last night. “Many of our business owners have sunk their life savings into these businesses, and the loss of income will be a hard blow. The administration will provide as much support as possible to those impacted. Plainfield has always been a resilient city that has overcome many hardships over the years; we will rebound from this better than we’ve ever been. We’ll do what we always do and support each other to get through this.”

The Plainfield Fire Department would like to remind residents to prioritize fire safety by checking smoke detectors, creating a fire plan, and practicing fire drills regularly.

The city administration will provide updates as they become available.

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The City of Plainfield, also known by its iconic nickname "The Queen City," is 153 years old, home to a population of 54,586 individuals. The City of Plainfield is the third-largest city in Union County. The current mayor of the beautiful Queen City is Mayor Adrian O. Mapp, serving a historic, consecutive third term. For more information on the City of Plainfield, visit online at www.plainfieldnj.gov, www.facebook.com/cityofplainfieldnj, Instagram at @cityofplainfieldnj, and Twitter at @cityofplainfld.

